

Calendar No. 489

86TH CONGRESS }
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SENATE

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REPORT
No. 492

DESIGNATING THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER OF EACH YEAR AS "INTERFAITH DAY"

JULY 13, 1959.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. KEATING, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the
following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S.J. Res. 53]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the resolution (S.J. Res. 53) designating the fourth Sunday in September of each year as "Interfaith Day," having considered the same, reports favorably thereon, without amendment, and recommends that the resolution be agreed to.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the joint resolution is to designate the fourth Sunday of September of each year as Interfaith Day, and to authorize and request the President of the United States to issue annually a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe such day.

STATEMENT

This joint resolution would designate the fourth Sunday in September of each year as Interfaith Day, and would authorize and request the President to call upon all Americans and all religious groups in the United States to observe that day in the manner each deems appropriate.

The designation of such a day would encourage the mutual understanding of all the people of our country and would serve further to call the attention of the rest of the free world to one of the fundamental principles upon which this Nation was founded. If the free nations

are to win the present struggle for men's minds, we must demonstrate in every possible way that our peoples intend to live by these principles.

The founders of our Nation came to this country in search of religious freedom and they saw to it that their descendants would be guaranteed this right through the Constitution. The United States has from the beginning offered freedom of worship to the individual and we must safeguard her place as the guardian and stronghold of liberty, equality, and tolerance in a troubled world.

History reveals that most of the major conflicts of the past have been caused in whole or in part by the suppression of the individual's right to worship as he pleases. The present strife has been wrought by a group of men who seek to replace the religions of the world with the ideology which recognizes neither a Supreme Being nor the priceless value of the individual.

The committee is of the opinion that the designation of a day in each year known as Interfaith Day would demonstrate to the world that this Nation seeks to encourage individuals of all faiths to unite their efforts toward a common goal—the preservation of the dignity of the individual. Accordingly, the committee recommends favorable consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 53, without amendment.

